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BOSTON, September 5, 1810.

SIR,

THE medical institution, which has heretofore existed in Cambridge, has lately undergone such important alterations, that we have presumed some information of its actual arrangements might be agreeable to you and useful to some of your friends.

Every physician in New England has, no doubt, been aware of the difficulty, in obtaining a good medical education, in this part of the United States. This difficulty has arisen principally from two sources. The first was the want of long and minute courses of lectures. The second, the deficiency of opportunities for exhibiting to students actual cases of disease; and the practice employed for them, in medicine and surgery.

We expect to be able to remove these embarrassments in future. The Honourable and Reverend Corporation and Board of Overseers of Harvard College have established a medical school, in the town of Boston. The professors, all of whom except one reside there, will be able to devote a longer time to the lectures, than they formerly did, and thus to render them more minute and more instructive. The second source of difficulty has been obviated by the liberality of the Honourable Board of Overseers of the poor of the town of Boston, who have committed the charge of the hospital department of the Alms House to such of the medical professors of the university, as have been recommended by the Corporation. This department contains about fifty patients, afflicted with a variety of diseases, which are the objects of both medicine and surgery. Operations in surgery also occasionally present themselves. These will afford very important practical advantages, all which will be accessible to the medical students.

The following courses of lectures, will be commenced in Boston, on the first Wednesday in December.

		FEES.	
Anatomy and Physiology Surgery and Midwifery	by	DR. WARREN, Sen. and	\$25
		DR. WARREN, Jun.	
Theory and Practice of Physic	by	DR. WATERHOUSE.	\$15
Chemistry and Materia Medica	by	DR. DEXTER, and	\$15
		DR. GORHAM.	
Clinical Medicine	by	DR. JACKSON.	\$20

The number of lectures will probably be about fifty, certainly not more than sixty, during the present season. This number will be gradually increased till it equal that given in the most respectable seminaries in the United States. The lectures will be delivered daily.

The object of the new Professorship of clinical medicine is, "to point out at the bedside of such sick persons, whose cases may be suitable for the purpose, the symptoms of the diseases under which they may labour, and to lecture upon the nature of such diseases and the indications of cure and methods of treatment, which have by experience been found most successful in similar diseases."

In addition to the lectures on surgery, the professors of that branch will exhibit to their students, at stated periods, the cases of surgical diseases in the hospital of the Alms House; also the operations in surgery, which may occur in publick or private practice, without any additional fee.

Some other important practical advantages will be accessible to the students. These cannot be specified at present.

The medical students or others will be allowed to attend either one, or more of the above named courses, as they may think proper. Those, who desire to obtain a medical degree, must attend two courses in each branch. The degrees will be conferred, as formerly, at the University.

The professors possess a very valuable collection of anatomical preparations, which will greatly aid their demonstrations on recent subjects. They have a chemical apparatus, which is extensive and adequate to the performance of the experiments, which should illustrate lectures on chemistry. These are to be deposited in commodious apartments in a building, now preparing for the purposes of the institution. There is also an excellent library, established by the munificence of **WARD NICHOLAS BOYLSTON, Esq.** the use of which will be enjoyed by the students.

It is believed that the price of living in Boston will not greatly exceed that in country towns, at least to those, who are willing to make some temporary sacrifices to the acquisition of knowledge, which will be permanently profitable to them. The professors will be able to point out houses, where the students may be lodged and boarded for \$3, 50, or \$3 for a week. They will also endeavour to render the situation of the students comfortable, and to promote their improvement in medical learning, by every means in their power.

Private pupils will be received by the professors on the usual terms.

It is not thought necessary to state minutely the reasons, which have caused the establishment of this medical institution in the town of Boston; or to urge the superior advantages of a medical school, placed in a populous town. Boston contains from thirty to forty thousand inhabitants, and is closely surrounded by the large towns of Charlestown, Cambridge, Roxbury, and Dorchester. The opportunity, among so great a number of people, of observing the diseases and accidents incident to mankind, must be very extensive. The consequent collection of a large number of able practitioners, with whom the students may have an important literary intercourse, and the necessary concentration of medical knowledge, are advantages not to be overlooked. It is obvious that all these sources combined may afford to students a portion of useful information, in the course of three or four months, which they would in vain seek for in a long period of practice in the country.

The subscribers have founded an expectation on these circumstances that students will resort to Boston from every part of the country; that thus they shall be enabled to enlarge the institution in various ways, so that this shall become, what it ultimately should be, **THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF NEW ENGLAND.**

We are, Sir, with respect,

Your very humble servants,

JOHN WARREN,
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE,
AARON DEXTER,
JAMES JACKSON,
JOHN C. WARREN,
JOHN GORHAM.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
Bethesda, Maryland



1810